

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-8 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE98/02260, and adds new claims 9-16. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the title, the specification and the abstract are, inter alia, to conform the title, the specification and the abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and to correct informalities. The amendments to the title, the specification and the abstract do not add new matter.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE98/02260 includes an International Search Report, dated March 3, 1999. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application. A copy of the Search Report is included herewith.

The underlying PCT application also includes an International Preliminary Examination Report. An English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report is included herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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